

to be like him. But if the flame of love is burning faintly in your soul, then, your desire to walk as he walked will be correspondingly faint. In order, then, to imitate Jesus, you must live under the influence of his love, and allow that love to constrain you to live, not unto yourself, but unto him who died for you and rose again.

But this is not all. Not only does the influence of Christ's example arise out of his love, but also out of the dignity of his character. The conduct of those persons whose station in life is low, and whose life is a life of poverty, does not draw the notice of men, and exerts very little influence upon them. Now, though Jesus was not exalted in this world's estimation, though he was so poor that he had nowhere to lay his head, yet he was no ordinary person; and his example, when rightly viewed, cannot fail to command admiration and respect. When men came into the presence of Jesus, they felt they were before no ordinary man: they were awed by his presence. Even the disciples, who were most familiar with him, felt this. When they came and found him talking with the woman of Samaria, they marvelled; yet no man said, "What seekest thou, or why talkest thou with her?" There seems to have been a halo of glory about him, which prevented them from being too familiar. The influence of Christ's example, then, arises out of his greatness and glory. And yet the greatness, glory, and dignity, which characterised the Saviour when he lived upon the earth, were not dazzling. There was nothing about him fitted to keep men from attempting to imitate him. His example is easy of imitation. How different his conduct from that of some of the saints of God recorded in the Scriptures. For example, if Elijah or John the Baptist had been set forth as our pattern, their austerity would have repelled rather than attracted men. The example of Jesus exerts no such influence on the minds of men. There is nothing about him fitted to repel men, but everything fitted to attract them. When he lived upon the earth, he mixed familiarly with men; and many of the incidents of which his life is made up, are such as occur in the lives of ordinary men. Jesus, then, is adapted to our wants as our example, because his example is influential.

2. The example of Jesus is of universal application. It is suited to men of every class and every peculiarity of natural disposition. Men are divided into classes, not only as regards their moral character, but also in respect of their station in life, and